

This book collects the contributions given to the Kent State Forum on the City: MADRID, which took place in Florence, Italy on November 16, 2012. We would like to dedicate this edition of the Forum and this book to the memory of Darío Gazapo de Aguilera and Luis Moreno Mansilla, who both died earlier in 2012. Although their unexpected deaths leave a void in Spanish architecture and in the Madrid school, we know that their legacy will live on after them, by continuing to inspire students, friends and architects. We sincerely wish that this publication will also be acknowledged as a contribution to the understanding of the design culture of a city that they greatly assisted to develop.

Paola Giacomia, Eugenio Pandolfini (eds.),
The Kent State Forum on the City: MADRID

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THE KENT MADRID STATE 2012 FORUM KENT STATE UNIVERSITY ON THE FLORENCE PROGRAM CITY

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MAP #3 URBAN ACUPUNCTURES

The **Madrid Metropolitan Area** experienced a relevant economic and demographic growth during the last two decades: population has increased from **5,028,000** in 1991 to **6,271,638** inhabitants in 2011. The demographic growth has been more intense in the periphery than in the Municipality of Madrid. Population in the Municipality has remained steady at around **3,273,000** inhabitants since the early 2000s.

RECENT MAJOR PUBLIC INTERVENTIONS IN THE CITY CENTER

- 1 **Museo ABC**
Aranguren & Gallegos Arquitectos
- 2 **Plaza de Santa Barbara**
Nieto y Sobejano
- 3 **Mercado Barceló**
Nieto y Sobejano
- 4 **Escuelas Pías de San Antón / Nueva sede COAM**
Gonzalo Moure
- 5 **Plaza Dali**
Francisco Mangado
- 6 **Plaza de la Luna**
Brut Deluxe
- 7 **Plaza del Callao / pedestrianization**
- 8 **Calle de Preciados / pedestrianization**
- 9 **Puerta del Sol restoration / pedestrianization**
- 10 **Biblioteca Ivan de Vargas**
estudio Andradá
- 11 **CaixaForum**
Herzog & De Meuron
- 12 **Plaza de las Letras**
FRPO, Langarita Navarro
- 13 **Madrid Río Linear Park**
Burgos & Garrido, Porras - La Casta; Rubio - A. Salá; West 8
- 14 **Matadero**
Arturo Franco, Ica Arquitectura, Langarita Navarro Arquitectos, ...

RECENT MAJOR PUBLIC INTERVENTIONS IN THE PERIPHERY

- 15 **Eco-boulevard**
ecosistema urbano
- 16 **Ecópolis Plaza**
ecosistema urbano



GROWTH OF THE PERIPHERY



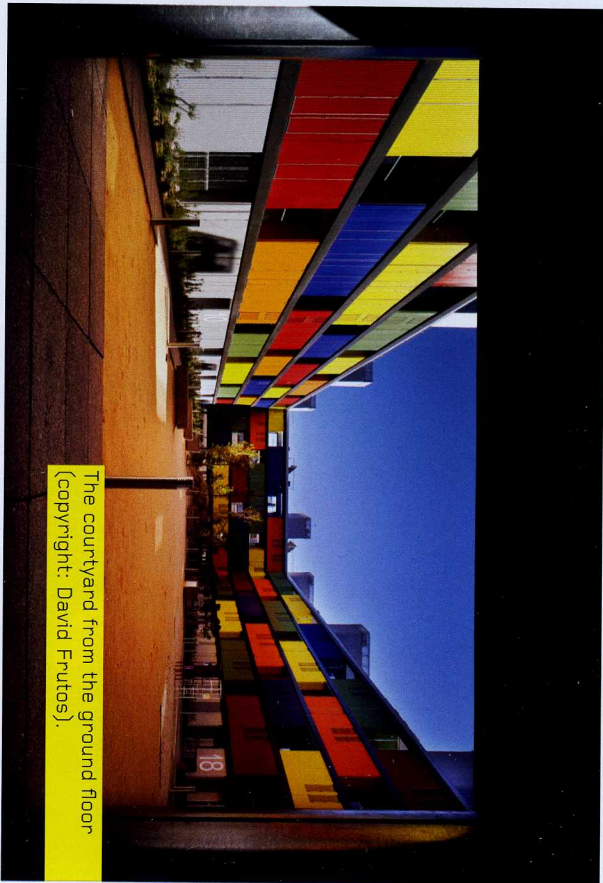
seems that this kind of plan springs from the morbid seedbed of a peripheral city in which sociability is reduced to the sacred space of the mall on Saturday afternoons. Its urban fabric is a mere geometry involving land to building ratios, where lakes of asphalt take the place of green areas, all together in the fiercest growing line where business has definitely won the battle against urban culture.

Public housing that arises in this context – as the vast majority of private housing has no other purpose than speculation – is required to return a portion of those elements that the business-oriented development of the periphery has snatched from the city and its citizens. Intelligent public management will insist on an architecture that strives not only to build better dwellings but also to design from the perspective of social urbanity.

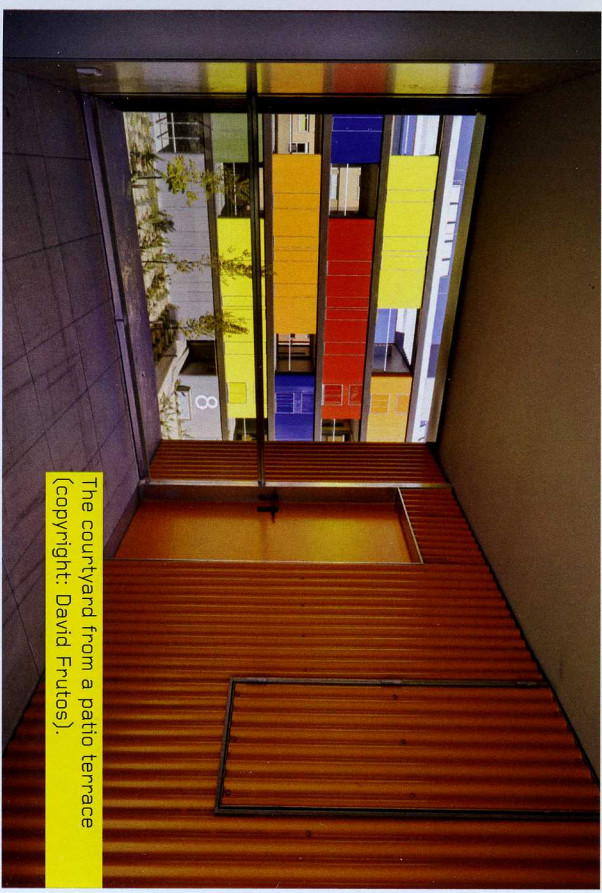
Building democratic spaces for the community is an ambitious target, even more so if in those spaces the highest architectural standards underlie the urban development. Therefore, our mission as committed architects is not only to build the best

dwellings even in the harshest and most adverse situation, but also to provide conditions for innovation that help us to better understand our present and spend our lives in contemporary places, if we wish.

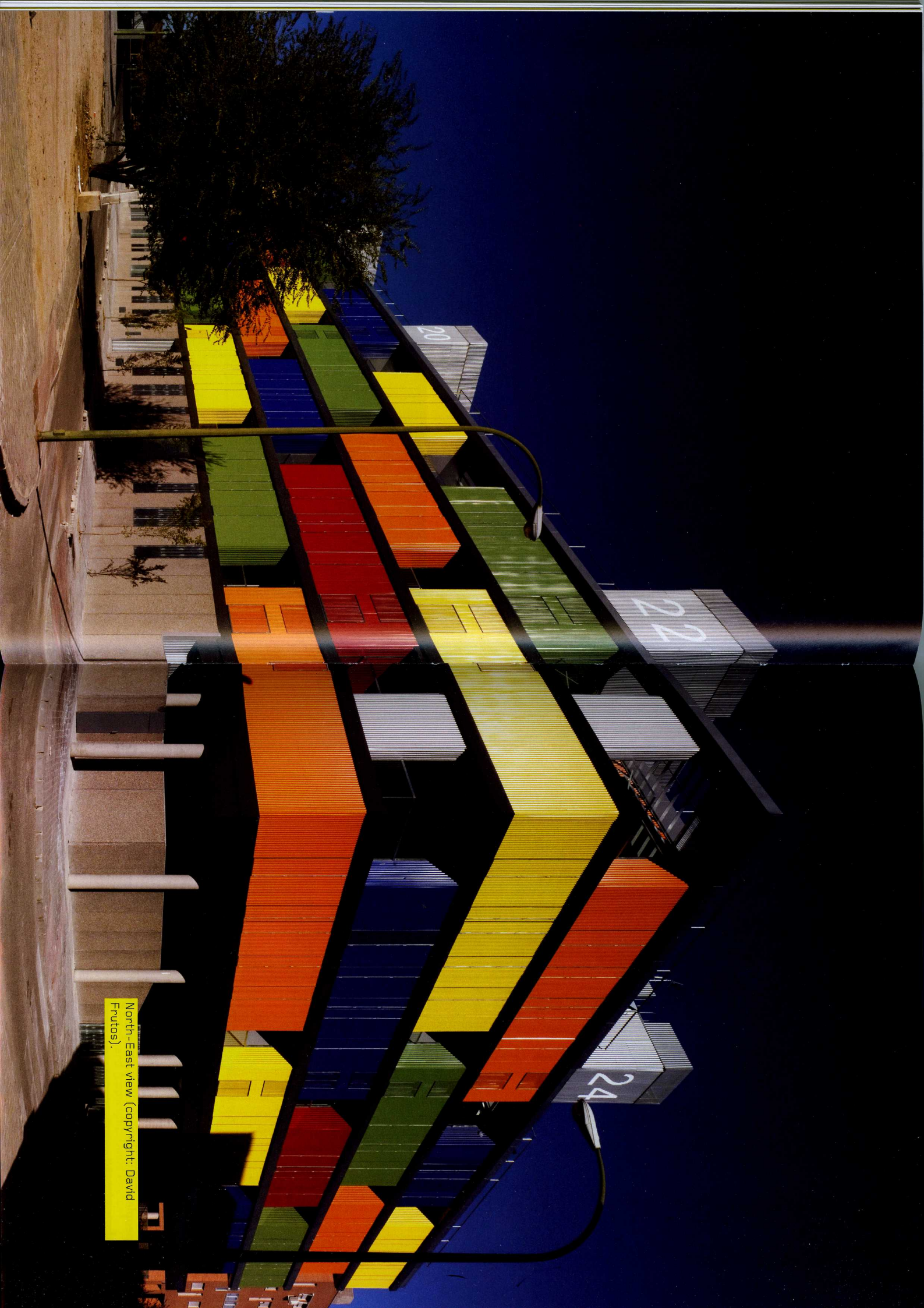
It is not easy being an architect, nor having to live in homes that we have not chosen. This is one of the difficulties that users must face: accept an offering that they hardly understand and usually detest. For them, almost everything seems strange, because everything is decidedly strange, and users accept it because it is cheap and they have no other options. Hence, architects have begun to work in the trench; our profession has slipped into the sweet territory of heroism. We have declined to be mediators, to listen in order to translate, and our social and cultural isolation has finally become a generic autism. Therefore, it is also our responsibility to mediate and develop disciplinary conditions that allow us to be radical and offer this effort to a social fabric that demands nothing but protection.



The courtyard from the ground floor
(copyright: David Frutos).



The courtyard from a patio terrace
(copyright: David Frutos).



North-East view (copyright: David Frutos).

Our discipline has always based its success on the generosity of providing much more than what was demanded and not only through the quality of the buildings but also through a theoretical foundation, neither advanced nor delayed, just embedded in its historical moment. In any case it seems, now more than ever, that the greatest radicalism lies in daily life.

A few actions in "The Perforated Building", PAU of

Carabanchel

1. The proposal was not designed from a review of the traditional housing block, but from the attributes of the housing slab, involving minimum width and perforations. The slab is folded to get an enclosed space inside, conceptually far from the block yards.
2. The building is closed in on itself creating a permeable building band that strictly fits the limits of the plot, assuming the normative conditions as one of the design issues. These constraints are directed to an extreme situation, looking for new possibilities both in the type of dwelling and in the morphology of the building.
3. The use of a minimum bandwidth in order to generate double-oriented dwellings with cross ventilation led to the construction of a large courtyard ready to become the heart of the project. In this regard, the proposal shifts from an interest in housing towards a commitment to public space, understanding the need to generate collective spaces that respond to some basic conditions of sociability.
4. The public space inside is half open and connected to the whole area, boldly assuming an ambiguous condition of exterior and interior and connection between the different existing topographical heights. This public internal space is a garden but also a place where different activities can be developed with people of different ages that participate, practice sport and enjoy the winter sun.

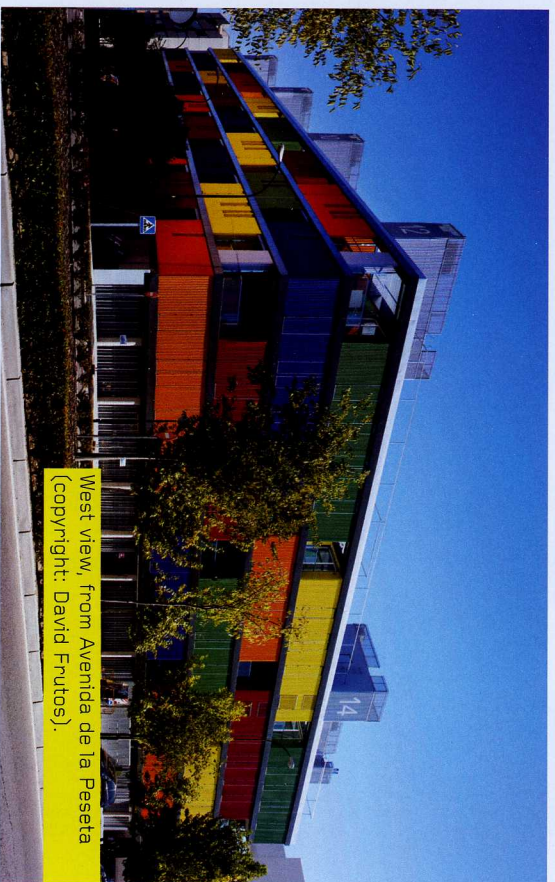


The building entrance from the courtyard (copyright: David Frutos).

5. This central, concave, plowed island, now converted into a sort of forest, connects visually with the city through multiple perforations, which in turn separate apartments on the upper floors and contain vertical connections on the ground floor. In the same way, the perforations lead to the design of double-oriented dwellings with patios on the upper floors, that work as intermediate elements between the public status of the courtyard and the privacy of dwellings.

6. The dwelling unit is an apartment with a patio. A reinterpretation of Le Corbusier's proposal for the Immeubles-Villas project, but also related to the Mediterranean house with a patio that appreciates the intermediate spaces as places with diffused but always attractive and intense uses. The courtyard as an "interface" allows the assimilation of very different guidelines with minimal modifications inside the house.

7. The organization of the block of apartments results from the conceptual application of a simple mechanism based on a linear and ordered grouping of elements on a previously built reinforced concrete structural platform. The same grouping



West view, from Avenida de la Peseta
(copyright: David Frutos).

system is used on each floor, resulting in a sort of mechanically-assembled building.

8. The building appears as an ordered set of metallic elements where users can choose colors and finishes from a catalogue of combinations, from the color of the façade to the internal layout and its finishes. In this sense the project is a strategy, a means of generating agreements about ways of living; a system of work in which architects organize, structure, put in order and build, but do not take final decisions which are left to the discretion of the users, in the hope they can enjoy a better life in their homes.

82 State subsidized housing building in Carabanchel, Madrid.

Location
Avenida de la Peseta. Carabanchel. Madrid.

Author
Atxu Amann, Andrés Cánovas, Nicolás Maruri

Architectural office
Amanñ-Cánovas-Maruri
Calle Golondrina n.80, 28023 Madrid

Client
EMVS (Department of Housing, Madrid City Council)

Site area
4,441.33 square meters

Built up area
13,419.81 square meters (including parking areas)

Project schedule
project: 2005-2007 | completed: May 2009

Costs
6,957,818 euros
